

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 11, 1999

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1999–2000 FIRST EXTRAORDINARY SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 27**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Leach**

January 19, 1999

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An act to ~~amend Sections 44252 and 44252.5 of the Education Code,~~ relating to teaching credentials, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 27, as amended, Leach. State basic skills proficiency test.

(1) Existing law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to adopt and the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to administer the state basic skills proficiency test to determine whether applicants for teaching credentials are qualified to receive the credentials. Existing law requires the State Board of Education to adopt statewide academically rigorous content and performance standards in core curriculum areas.

This bill would require the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, ~~on or before January 1, 2000, to align the state basic skills proficiency test with the state content and performance standards to review the state basic skills proficiency test to evaluate the test's content validity, reliability, and passing scores. The bill would require the commission to submit a written report pertaining to this~~

review, including any findings and recommendations, to the Legislature, the Governor, and the State Board of Education.

(2) The bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Vote:  $\frac{2}{3}$ . Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1    ~~SECTION 1. Section 44252 of the Education Code is~~  
2    ~~amended to read:~~  
3    ~~44252. (a) The commission shall establish standards~~  
4    ~~and procedures for the initial issuance and renewal of~~  
5    ~~credentials.~~  
6    ~~(b) Commencing on February 1, 1983, the commission~~  
7    ~~shall not issue initially any credential, permit, certificate,~~  
8    ~~or renewal of an emergency credential to any person to~~  
9    ~~serve in the public schools unless the person has~~  
10    ~~demonstrated proficiency in basic reading, writing, and~~  
11    ~~mathematics skills in the English language as provided in~~  
12    ~~Section 44252.5. However, an emergency credential~~  
13    ~~holder who has passed the basic skills proficiency test shall~~  
14    ~~not be required to repeat the test in order to obtain a~~  
15    ~~renewal of his or her emergency credential. The~~  
16    ~~commission shall exempt from the basic skills proficiency~~  
17    ~~test requirement any of the following persons:~~  
18    ~~(1) A person credentialed solely for the purpose of~~  
19    ~~teaching adults in an apprenticeship program.~~  
20    ~~(2) An applicant for an adult education designated~~  
21    ~~subject credential for other than an academic subject.~~  
22    ~~(3) A person credentialed in another state who is an~~  
23    ~~applicant for employment in a school district in this state~~  
24    ~~who has passed a basic skills proficiency examination that~~  
25    ~~has been developed and administered by the school~~  
26    ~~district offering that person employment, or by~~  
27    ~~cooperating school districts, or by the appropriate county~~  
28    ~~office of education. School districts administering a basic~~  
29    ~~skills proficiency examination under this paragraph shall~~  
30    ~~comply with the requirements of subdivision (h) of~~  
31    ~~Section 44830. Such an applicant shall be granted a~~

1 nonrenewable credential, valid for not longer than one  
2 year, pending fulfillment of the basic skills proficiency  
3 requirement pursuant to Section 44252.5.

4 (4) An applicant for a child care center permit or a  
5 permit authorizing service in a development center for  
6 the handicapped, if the holder of the permit is not  
7 required to have a baccalaureate degree.

8 (5) The holder of a credential, permit, or certificate to  
9 teach, other than an emergency credential, who seeks an  
10 additional authorization to teach.

11 (6) An applicant for a credential to provide service in  
12 the health profession.

13 (c) By December 31, 1982, the Superintendent of  
14 Public Instruction shall adopt an appropriate state test to  
15 measure proficiency in these basic skills. In adopting the  
16 test, the superintendent shall seek assistance from the  
17 commission and an advisory board. A majority of the  
18 members of the advisory board shall be classroom  
19 teachers. The board shall also include representatives of  
20 local school boards, school administrators, parents, and  
21 postsecondary institutions.

22 The superintendent shall adopt any normed test that  
23 the superintendent determines will sufficiently test basic  
24 skills for purposes of this section.

25 The superintendent, in conjunction with the  
26 commission and approved teacher training institutions,  
27 shall take steps necessary to insure the effective  
28 implementation of this provision.

29 (d) Nothing in this section requires the holders of, or  
30 applicants for, a designated subjects special subjects  
31 credential or vocational designated subject credential to  
32 pass the state basic skills proficiency test, unless the  
33 requirements for the specific credential required the  
34 possession of a baccalaureate degree. The governing  
35 board of each school district, or each governing board of  
36 a consortium of school districts, or each governing board  
37 involved in a joint powers agreement, which employs a  
38 holder of a designated subjects special subjects credential  
39 or vocational designated subject credential shall establish  
40 its own basic skills proficiency criteria for the holders of

1 these credentials and shall arrange for those individuals  
2 to be assessed. The basic skills proficiency criteria  
3 established by the governing board shall be at least  
4 equivalent to the test required by the district, or in the  
5 case of a consortium or a joint powers agreement, by any  
6 of the participating districts, for graduation from high  
7 school. The governing board or boards may charge a fee  
8 to individuals being tested to cover the costs of the test,  
9 including the costs of developing, administering, and  
10 grading the test.

11 (e) The commission shall compile data regarding the  
12 rate of passing the state basic skills proficiency test by  
13 persons who have been trained in various institutions of  
14 higher education. The data shall be available to members  
15 of the public, including to persons who intend to enroll in  
16 teacher education programs.

17 (f) Each applicant to an approved credential program,  
18 unless exempted by subdivision (b), shall take the state  
19 basic skills proficiency test in order to provide both the  
20 prospective applicant and the program with information  
21 regarding the applicant's proficiency level. Test results  
22 shall be forwarded to each California postsecondary  
23 institution to which the applicant has applied. The  
24 program shall use test results to ensure that upon  
25 admission, each applicant receives appropriate academic  
26 assistance necessary to pass the state basic skills  
27 proficiency test. Persons residing outside the state shall  
28 take the test no later than the second available  
29 administration following their enrollment in a credential  
30 program.

31 It is the intent of the Legislature that applicants for  
32 admission to teacher preparation programs not be denied  
33 admission on the basis of state basic skills proficiency test  
34 results.

35 (g) On or before January 1, 2000, the commission shall  
36 align the state basic skills proficiency test with the state  
37 content and performance standards adopted pursuant to  
38 subdivision (a) of Section 60605. In implementing this  
39 requirement, the commission shall reevaluate and adjust

1 the passing score used to determine proficiency in the  
2 test subject areas.

3 SEC. 2. Section 44252.5 of the Education Code is  
4 amended to read:

5 44252.5. (a) The commission shall administer the  
6 state basic skills proficiency test pursuant to Sections  
7 44227, 44252, and 44830 in accordance with rules and  
8 regulations adopted by the commission. The adopted  
9 rules and regulations shall be promulgated by the  
10 commission before January 1, 1983, and shall be exempt  
11 from the requirements of Section 44232. A fee shall be  
12 charged to individuals being tested to cover the costs of  
13 the test, including the costs of developing, administering,  
14 and grading the test. The commission shall establish the  
15 amount of this fee. However, the fee shall not exceed  
16 forty dollars (\$40) in fiscal years subsequent to the  
17 1983-84 fiscal year.

18 (b) The commission may enter into agreements with  
19 other states permitting the use of the state basic skills  
20 proficiency test as a requirement for the issuance of  
21 credentials or for teacher preparation program admission  
22 in those other states, if the use would advance the  
23 interests of the State of California and the other states  
24 reimburse the Teacher Credentials Fund for a  
25 proportionate share of costs of the development and  
26 administration of the test.

27 (c) Any individual who passes the state basic skills  
28 proficiency test, as adopted by the Superintendent of  
29 Public Instruction, shall be considered proficient in the  
30 skills of reading, writing, and mathematics, and shall not  
31 be required to be retested by this test for purposes of  
32 meeting the proficiency requirements of Sections 44227,  
33 44252, and 44830.

34 (d) Any individual who passes one or more  
35 components of the state basic skills proficiency test in the  
36 subjects of basic reading, writing, or mathematics, shall be  
37 deemed to have demonstrated his or her proficiency in  
38 these subject areas and shall not be required to be  
39 retested in these subjects during subsequent test  
40 administrations.

~~(c) On or before January 1, 2000, the commission shall align the state basic skills proficiency test with the state content and performance standards adopted pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 60605.~~

SECTION 1. (a) *It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting the act adding this section to evaluate the reliability and validity of the content of the California Basic Education Skills Test (CBEST) in order to ensure that teachers employed by California public schools are measured by a proper assessment of basic competency in areas of reading, writing, and mathematics, and that the passing score is set at an appropriate level.*

(b) *The Commission on Teacher Credentialing shall review the state basic skills proficiency test to evaluate the test's content validity, reliability, and passing scores. The Commission on Teacher Credentialing shall submit a written report pertaining to the review of the test, including any findings and recommendations, to the Legislature, the Governor, and the State Board of Education on or before January 1, 2001.*

SEC. 3. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

~~In order that the state basic skills proficiency test be aligned with the state content and performance standards at the earliest possible time, it is necessary that this act take effect immediately.~~

*In order that the state basic skills test be evaluated in terms of the test's content validity, reliability, and passage scores at the earliest possible time, it is necessary that this act take effect immediately.*

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